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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4348
INFO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS MINSK 000483

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DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: Belarus Special 301 Notification

Ref: State 66978

On May 4, Econoff delivered reftel information on the 2006 Special 301 notification for Belarus to Andrey Rzhessky, Counselor in the MFA's USA and Canada Department. [Note: Delivery was delayed by local holidays.] Rzhessky did not provide any substantive comment at the time, but promised to distribute the report within the GOB. He expects the GOB would provide a response after several weeks. Econoff also pointed out that Post had difficulty collecting information for this report because the Belarusian Ministry of Interior refused to provide any information on IPR enforcement. Rzhessky promised to provide such information if Post would make the request via diplomatic note.

PHLIPOT